

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT.

COUNTY OF DAKOTA

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

**TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT, IN AND FOR THE
COUNTY OF DAKOTA AND STATE OF MINNESOTA:**

The committee from the Dakota County bar appointed by the Honorable Court, on Tuesday the 26th day of April, 1914, to prepare a biography of the Honorable Edmund A. Whitford, a member of the Dakota County bar, who died February 13th, 1914, begs leave to make the following report.

Mr. Edmund A. Whitford, was born at Paola, Kansas, April, 14th, 1859, and came to this state with his family in 1861, locating on a farm in the Town of Hampton, in this County. His education was received in the schools of Hastings, and at Carlton College.

He attended the college of law at the University of Michigan, whence he graduated in 1882.

Mr. Whitford was admitted to the bar of this state in 1882, then went into business as assistant cashier and subsequently cashier of the German American Bank of this City. He took up the active practice of law in 1890, and was a very successful and reliable counselor. He was City Attorney for the City of Hastings, Minnesota, for several years, and was elected County Attorney of Dakota County in 1890. He served one term in that office but declined a re-nomination. In 1900 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of this State, and served during the session of 1901.

Mr. Whitford occupied no public office after that time, although he was a member of a number of our leading civic societies, and was prominent in all movements having for their object the public and civic well-fare of his community.

Mr. Whitford was married to Miss Adeline I. Boynton, Oct. 24, 1883, and spent all the rest of his life, a resident of Hastings, Minnesota.

During the last twelve years Mr. Whitford was an almost constant sufferer, and was compelled to spend a considerable part of his time in traveling, in an attempt to re-establish his failing health.

Mr. Whitford, in performing the duties of his profession, was unfailingly courteous, and strictly conscientious. He disliked the atmosphere of strife, and made it his pride and duty to adjust differences between litigants wherever it was possible. His mind was keen and analytical. He preferred the seclusion of the study and office to the publicity of the courts. His business ability and natural bent of mind compelled him to investigate every question, whether of law or fact, with painstaking care, fidelity and minuteness.

No deeply involved, question of law or fact could long remain obscure under his painstaking examination and re-search.

Though he did not care for the contest of the former, yet he did not shirk his duty in that respect, and was a very successful and painstaking trial lawyer.

His personal characteristics were those of a man of very sunny disposition, He was always cheerful; even when suffering great pain; and even at times when everything seemed to be against him. He was generous and open-handed in all matters in which the public was interested or concerned, and up to the time of his death, took a keen interest in everything that tended towards the progress and well being of his native state, county, and city.

In Mr. Whitford the bar of Dakota County has lost one of its most courteous, able, honest and hard working members.

Mr. Whitford had no children, being survived by his widow and two sisters.

 /s/ Albert Schaller

 /s/ C. S. Lowell

 /s/ P. H. O'Keefe

 /s/ W. H. Gillitt

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Posted MLHP: March 6, 2010